

# **AGENDA**

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TASK FORCE**

July 27, 2004

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Government Center, Rooms 4/5

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Responsible Person</u>
7:03	Opening/Welcome	Chairman
7:10	Approval of Minutes of June 28	Members
7:15	Report on Haulers Meeting	Hauler/County Reps
7:25	Sanitary Districts	Jeff Smithberger
7:45	Discussion of Sanitary Districts	Members
8:15	Break	
8:25	Environmental Presentation	Sheila Roit
8:40	Discussion of Environmental Issues	Facilitator and members
9:30	Summary of Meeting	Chairman and/Facilitator
10:00	Adjourn	Chairman

**Next meeting – September 28, 2004 7:00 p.m. in the Government Center,  
Conference Room 9/10**

**Minutes of the Solid Waste Management Program Task Force (SWTF)**  
**Government Center Conference Room 4/5**  
**12000 Government Center Parkway**  
**Fairfax, VA 22035**  
**July 27, 2004**

**Approved 8-3-04**

**Members Present:** Joyce Bissonette, Peter Crane, Marilyn Blois, Clark Tyler, Sheila Roit, John Townes, Queenie Cox, William Lecos, Jim Langemeier, Joan Carr, John Hasel, Joyce Doughty, Conrad Mehan, Paul Liberty

**Members Absent:** Joann McCoy and Robin Smyers

**Guests:** 1(did not sign in)

**County staff:** Jeff Smithberger, Catherine Lunsford, Marilyn McHugh, Linda Boone

**LMI Staff:** Dan Jackson and Audrey Borja

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes were approved as presented.

Report on the Haulers' Meeting

Linda Boone reported that the survey sent to the collection companies has produced 8 responses with varying responses to the questions. A copy of the survey results were given to members. The only significant concurrence in the survey was around having less frequent meetings, following a SWTF meeting. The results of this information will be sent to the collection companies and they will be invited to attend the next Haulers' Meeting on Thursday October 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the Government Center.

Bill Lecos asked that a small group from the SWTF attend the meeting to ask the collection companies about their interest in meeting and working with SWTF around the Customer Service and Operations issues. Members were to let staff (Linda Boone) know if they were interested in attending the October Haulers' Meeting.

Presentation about Sanitary Districts

Jeff Smithberger explained the sanitary district process that is based on the Code of Virginia and procedures established in the County (handout available). He provided the latest Code references. Noting that the process is originated by at least 55% of homeowners in the potential district, he reiterated that the County acts as only as an advisor to residents in getting the petition process before the Board of Supervisors. The County does not market the creation of sanitary districts. There are 69 refuse and 30 leaf districts currently on record. County staff notifies homeowners when a petition process is in process. Homeowners are also notified by letter of the public hearing date. Residents and collection companies are notified once the Board of Supervisors

approves a sanitary district. There are two petition processes annually. No petitions have been received to date for the January 1, 2005 start of service.

To decrease a sanitary district, 60% of the homeowners must petition, and the Board of Supervisors must approve the request. All actions to establish or decrease a district are done by a public hearing process. The percent of households served by the county in sanitary districts is a lower percent of overall number of households than in 1990.

There are 2 petitions outstanding from 2003. In 2004, 23 petition packages have been mailed to residents. In July 2004, 80 new homes were added to existing districts. Please contact Jeff Smithberger if there are questions about the process.

The following questions and answers were addressed:

Q: Why has county stopped sending notices to collection companies when a petition package is mailed to residents?

A: Staff will check into this, but we don't really know which private collection companies have contracts with residents in the potential sanitary district.

Q: What other communications do we have with haulers?

A: The county sends a monthly newsletter to collection companies called *Hauler News* and there are the quarterly hauler meetings, where we are trying to generate more participation by the companies.

Q: Could the county post info about sanitary district petitions in monthly newsletters?

A: Yes, we could do that.

Q: When a new district is formed, does the county get to make rates retroactive to beginning of year?

A: No, the rates are effective with the billing cycle for taxes through Department of Taxation, thus the January 1 and July 1 start dates for new sanitary districts. Rate changes become effective when the new fiscal year budget starts in July annually.

Q: Are haulers notified when public hearing is to be held?

A: Notices of the public hearing are made for two weeks prior to the hearing in the Washington Post and Fairfax County Journal.

Q: How do haulers feel about sanitary districts?

A: A collection company representative stated they do not get to be involved. They cannot compete for those customers.

Q: If the County cannot provide service to a new or expanded sanitary district, how do you provide the services?

A: As with any competitively awarded contract, we can ask the vendor to provide additional services of the same kind and at similar rates. Once the County and vendor mutually agree, the contract is extended to cover the new service area.

Q: Are there HOAs in sanitary districts?

A: Yes, an HOA can be included in a sanitary district if part of a petition area. When a sanitary district is established or enlarged, County staff include only the homes involved in the petition process within the district. That is the reason for the extensive legal language that is included in the petition identifying every piece of property included in the sanitary district.

Q: Is it possible to have several HOAs in a sanitary district?

A: Yes

Q: Is there a relationship with parkouts and sanitary districts?

A: No relationship. Parkouts are an independent, private entity.

Q: Are there other parkouts?

A: Staff is aware of only the 2 in Dranesville District.

Q: Why do homeowners want to be in a sanitary district and go through this process?

A: They may just like county services as an option or need only weekly services. They may not like the hauler options available. Some like the convenience of having the cost paid on the tax bill. Leaf service is part of the sanitary district attraction. The county offers leaf collection 3 times per year. There are myriad reasons.

Q: If we had 500,000 residents petitioning for county service, could you handle it?

A: Not as currently structured and equipped. County staff has not advocated for county crews assuming all collections in the county.

Q: Are there private companies that do leaf collection?

A: Yes.

At 7:55 p.m. the meeting was interrupted by a power outage that was expected to last for two hours. The meeting was adjourned and will reconvene on Monday, August 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Government Center, Suite 448.